

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 825 and commend Senator Dede Alpert for working collaboratively with my Administration on the substantive content of this measure.

I am committed to shifting greater control over educational decisions to the local level, and the increasing number of categorical programs that school districts have had to manage impedes that process.

This bill makes significant strides in streamlining school funding for California schools and provides increased local control over their educational programs. Of the 88 separate state categorical programs, this bill repeals 26 of them, and allows school districts the flexibility to use the \$1.8 billion in funding from those programs within six block grants. While there are still many ways that the state can simplify the manner in which we regulate and allocate funds to schools, I am signing this bill to move the state in the right direction.

I am signing this bill with the understanding that clean-up legislation will be introduced next legislative session to address a technical problem in the bill. The bill inadvertently repeals the Carl Washington School Safety and Violence Prevention Act. This repeal was an oversight that occurred in late amendments to the bill. As the repeal provision does not become operative until July 1, 2005, there will be time to enact clean-up legislation prior to the repeal taking effect.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger